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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/764,210

01/22/2004

Louis E. Spears

020915-001500US

8077

20350

7590

11/03/2005

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KHIEM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,210

Applicant(s)

SPEARS ET AL.

Examiner

Khiem Nguyen

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Freeman et al. (5,366,388) and Carter et al. (3,711,817).

3. The APA input/output connector assembly incorporated into a computer or electrical device as being discussed in the background of the present application discloses the claimed invention except it lacks to disclose a plurality of connector modules each having a connector port for the input or output of electrical signals, a connector port holder, wherein each said connector port holders encloses a connector port and includes a plurality of locking tabs and a metal bracket incorporated into said computer which firmly receives each said connector port holder, wherein said bracket has a plurality of port holes through which said connector ports are inserted.

Freeman et al. discloses a plurality of connector modules each having a connector port (44,62,14) for the input or output of electrical signals, a connector port holder (12,60,16), wherein each said connector port holders encloses a connector port and includes a plurality of locking tabs and a bracket 10 which firmly receives each said connector port holder, wherein said bracket has a plurality of port holes 22 through

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which said connector ports are inserted. Carter et al. also discloses that it is old and well known to use a metal frame bracket 2 for mounting connector modules on an electrical equipment device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a plurality of connector modules each having a connector port for the input or output of electrical signals, a connector port holder, wherein each said connector port holders encloses a connector port and includes a plurality of locking tabs and a metal bracket incorporated into said computer which firmly receives each said connector port holder, wherein said bracket has a plurality of port holes through which said connector ports are inserted for the APA connector assembly in view of the teachings of Freeman et al. and Carter et al. The above features would allow for interchange of different connector ports and modules to the same metal panel bracket.

Regarding the limitation wherein said bracket includes a metal extension which electromagnetically connects to an adjacent electrical component and a metal tab on at least one of said connector port holders which electromagnetically contacts both said connector port and said metal bracket is readable on the metal frame 2 of Carter et al. which electrically contact with the panel 4, and a metal tab 50 on at least one of his connector port holder which electromagnetically contacts both said connector port and said metal frame (see figures 2-3).

Also regarding the different type of connector ports used in the connector assembly is deemed well known and obvious over the different type of connector ports as being disclosed by Freeman and Carter et al.


Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Martel (3,376,543), Robert (3,389,369), Morgan (5,129,842), Szeto (6,375,495), Hsu (6,846,200) are further cited to show connector assemblies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-2096. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839